

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----114254 050207Z /62

O 050133Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0451
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01229

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: TUENI'S HELP ENLISTED ON UNIFIL

1. SUMMARY: DURING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON APRIL 4 WITH
AMB LEONARD, AMB TUENI AGREED TO CONSULT WITH ARABS
AND EAST EUROPEANS ON THREE KEY UNIFIL PROBLEMS:
AVOIDING INTRODUCTION OF POLITICAL ELEMENTS AND
ASSURING EQUITABLE SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS AT SPECIAL
SESSION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON UNIFIL FINANCING,
AUGMENTING UNIFIL'S SIZE, AND SOLICITING COOPERATION
FROM EASTERN EUROPEANS AT THE SPECIAL SESSION AND IN
SC ACTION ON UNIFIL INCREASE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MEETING WITH AMB LEONARD APRIL 4, LEBANESE
PERMREP TUENI NOTED THAT ARAB GROUP AT ITS LAST MEET-
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ING LEFT SUSPENDED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER ARABS WILL
"RIDE THEIR HIGH HORSES" AT THE EIGHTH SPECIAL GA
SESSION ON UNIFIL FINANCING APRIL 20-21 (SEE USUN 6247).
TUENI BELIEVED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF RHETORIC FROM THE
ARABS WOULD BE UNAVOIDABLE AND HE SAW SAFETY VALVE
ASPECT OF ARABS VENTING FRUSTRATIONS DURING SPECIAL
SESSION. MUCH WOULD DEPEND, HOWEVER, ON STATUS OF

IDF WITHDRAWAL AT THAT TIME. FOR THE MOMENT THE ARAB GROUP WAS AGREED NOT TO PRESS FOR SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION UNLESS SO DESIRED BY GOL.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE CAIRO AND SHTAURA ACCORDS, TUENI REMARKED THAT LEBANON DOES NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE CAIRO AGREEMENT AS AN INTERNATIONAL LEGAL DOCUMENT AND THE SHTAURA ACCORD, WHICH THE GOL WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER AS VALID, WAS NEVER IMPLEMENTED BY THE PALESTINIANS. THUS WHILE THE GOL WOULD FAVOR SHTAURA BECAUSE OF ITS RESTRICTIONS ON PALESTINIANS IN SOUTH LEBANON, AND THE PALESTINIANS WOULD FAVOR CAIRO, IT IS SIMPLY BEST TO SET ASIDE THESE DOCUMENTS. FM BOUTROS SPEAKS NOW OF LEBANESE RIGHTS FLOWING FROM SC RES 425 AND 426 -- AN AFFIRMATION OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, ETC.

4. TURNING TO INCREASING THE NUMBER OF UNIFIL TROOPS, TUENI AGREED TO SEE FRIENDLY ARAB DELEGATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND IN FACT WOULD RAISE THIS ISSUE IN MEETING HE WOULD HAVE IN THE NEXT HOUR WITH AMB BISHARA (KUWAIT), AMB MESTIRI (TUNISIA), AND PLO OBSERVER TERZI. TUENI CONCURRED THAT DELICATE HANDLING WOULD BE REQUIRED IN GROUP APPROACH WITH TERZI PRESENT. IN THIS CONTEXT IT WAS NOTED THAT JAMES JONAH'S BACKGROUND BRIEFING TO PRESS AT NOON, CONFIDENTIAL

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WHILE PREMATURE, WAS NOT WITHOUT HELPFUL ELEMENTS. JONAH STATED THAT WHEN THE 4,000 TROOP FIGURE WAS DECIDED BY THE SC, ISRAEL WAS OCCUPYING A SIX-SEVEN MILE SECURITY BELT IN SOUTH LEBANON. AFTER ISRAELI ADVANCE, SOME INCREASE IN UNIFIL STRENGTH MAY BE NECESSARY ABOVE THE 4,000 LEVEL. LEONARD NOTED THAT IN LIGHT OF JONAH'S REMARKS TO PRESS (ON BACKGROUND) CONSULTATIONS WITH ARABS AND OTHERS SHOULD PROCEED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (LEONARD SUBSEQUENTLY ENLISTED SUPPORT OF EGYPTIAN DEPUTY PERM REP BADAWI, AND TUENI SAID HE WAS MEETING WITHIN THE HOUR WITH THE CZECH PERM REP.)

5. TAKING UP EASTERN EUROPEAN COOPERATION WITH UNIFIL AUGMENTATION, TUENI WONDERED WHETHER SOVIET PERM REP TROYANOVSKY'S COMPLAINT TO WALDHEIM ON APRIL 1 MIGHT BE LINKED WITH THE PRESENCE IN MOSCOW NOW OF THE LEBANESE LEFTISTS INCLUDING THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT. TUENI SAID HE WAS CONSIDERING APPROACHING TROYANOVSKY TO ALLAY SOVIET SUSPICIONS AND FEARS AND WOULD SEEK INSTRUCTIONS FROM BEIRUT. AS FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL, TUENI THOUGHT THE UN SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE BUT LEBANON WOULD

SUPPORT IT. HE SAID THE CZECH AMB TOLD HIM EARLIER
THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD NOT BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE
UNIFIL TROOPS.

6. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO
MEET WITH THE SOVIETS TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR INCREASING
THE STRENGTH OF UNIFIL. WE COULD ALSO AT THIS TIME
TAKE SOUNDINGS ON SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD SOME EASTERN
EUROPEAN UNIFIL PARTICIPATION AND ON THE SOVIET
ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SPECIAL SESSION. SECRETARIAT TELLS
US THAT THE SOVIET MISSION HAS PASSED WORD TO THE SYG'S

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01229

EXDIS

OFFICE ON THE NEED FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO CONSULT
ON ADDING TO NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF UNIFIL. LEONARD

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